

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-15, 17-22, 24, 25, 27-32 and 34-40 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-15, 17-22, 24, 25, 27-32 and 34-40 are rejected.

Claims 16, 23 and 26 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 15, 25, 34 and 35 have been amended.

Claims 41, 42 and 43 have been added. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims, and drawings, as originally filed.

Rejection of Claims 1-22, 25-32 and 35-40 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-22, 25-32 and 35-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Published Application No. 2005/0190465 to Henion et al. (hereafter Henion '465). Applicant now respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-22, 25-32 and 35-40. The rejected claims have been amended and now all contain the limitations of:

a longitudinal member formed on said bezel and extending between said front surface and said rear surface wherein said longitudinal member has a surface positioned adjacent said lower wall of said housing when said bezel is connected to said housing;

one or more locators extending upward from said surface of said longitudinal member, said one or more locators aligns with one or more locators on said lower wall of said housing;

See independent claims 1, 15, 25 and 35. Applicant maintains that Henion '465 does not disclose the above limitation. The Office Action indicated that:

a mirror housing 250 having an upper wall portion, a lower wall portion, a forwardly facing wall portion, an inner wall portion and an outer wall portion; adapted to be secured to an outer surface of a motor vehicle and having a generally rearwardly facing opening. A reflecting element is disposed within the opening. A modular bezel 252 is connected to a lower

traverse surface of the housing, the modular bezel having an opening for projecting light and a holder 150 positioned in the modular bezel. A light transmitting lens (262 and 264) formed in the modular bezel 252. A modular bezel formed as a separate element and attached to said lower wall portion wherein said modular bezel is positioned entirely below said reflective element. The modular bezel having a light source assembly 272 located and connected to the holder (see column 9, lines 24-26) inside the modular bezel 252 having a light source 272 connectable to the light source assembly wherein the light source generates light. The light source assembly generating light projected through the opening in the modular bezel. The light source assembly being operable to provide a light signal visible through the light transmitting lens. The opening in the bezel 252 projects rearwardly. The light source 272 generates light to provide at least one of a turn signal light, an approach light, and a vehicle side marker light. The light source assembly 138 has a reflective inner surface being shaped to a direct maximum amount of light emitted from the light source 272 to the lens (262 and 264). The lens (262 and 264) is operative to direct light through an arc extending at least 40 degrees. The light source is operable to provide a signal visible through the light transmitting lens 154 to a rearward motor vehicle when activated. The light source 272 generates light to provide a vehicle approach light and wherein the lens of one of red, amber, and white. The light source 272 generates light to provide a vehicle side marker light and wherein the lens is one of red, amber, and white.

Henion '465 does not show a longitudinal member extending between the front surface and the rear surface of the modular bezel. Henion '465 also does not disclose a longitudinal member that is adjacent the lower wall portion of the mirror housing. Furthermore, Henion '465 does not disclose locators extending from the surface of the longitudinal member and contacting locators on the lower wall surface of the housing. To the contrary, Figures 22 and 23 disclose an indicator light assembly pod (see ¶ [0063]) that has an edge that abuts part of the lower surface of the mirror housing. This edge is not a longitudinal member, nor does it have locators extending from its surface as required by the rejected claims of this application. For all of the above reasons applicant maintains that the limitations of claims 1-22, 25-32 and 35-43 are not anticipated by Henion '465.

Applicant further maintains that claims 1-22, 25-32 and 35-43 would not be rendered obvious by Henion '495. Figures 22 and 23 clearly only show a light assembly pod that has an edge that is only partially adjacent the lower surface of the housing. There is nothing the specification or drawings of Henion '465 that teach or suggest the use of a longitudinal member or locators as required by claims 1-22, 25-32 and 35-43 of the present invention.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the above amendments and remarks claims 1-15, 17-22, 24, 25, 27-32 and 34-40 as presented, are patentably distinguishable because the cited patents, whether taken alone or in combination, do not anticipate or render obvious, the present invention. Therefore, Applicants submit that the pending claims are properly allowable, which allowance is respectfully requested.


The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney at (248) 364-4300 if any unresolved matters remain.

Respectfully submitted,

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